

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jefferson Union Church and Sweet Cemetery

other names/site number Sweet Church 113-310-40006

2. Location

street & number 3015 E 415 N ☒ not for publication

city or town Albion ☒ vicinity

state Indiana code 113 county Noble zip code 46701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

JEFFERSON UNION CHURCH (SWEET CHURCH)
Property Name

NOBLE COUNTY, INDIANA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

SOCIAL: civic

FUNERARY: cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: clubhouse

FUNERARY: cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Granite

walls BRICK

roof METAL: Steel

other WOOD: Weatherboard

CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☒ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

c. 1875

c. 1838-1959

Significant Dates

c. 1875

c. 1838

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Harvey, George

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets Sections 8,9 pages 8-13

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.) See Sections 8,9 on Page 13

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.69

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 16 636460 4585590
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

☐ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark A. Ober (contact) & Alan Hass
organization N/A date 02/07/2007 (rev: 03/04/2009)
street & number 1886 E 500N telephone 260-636-3518
city or town Albion state IN zip code 46701

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Sweet Church Community Org., Inc.
street & number 3015 E 415 N telephone 260-636-2086
city or town Albion state IN zip code 46701

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Narrative Description

The Jefferson Union Church (hereinafter referred to as the "Sweet Church") is located in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of County Road 415 North and County Road 300 East in Jefferson Township, about 4 miles northeast of Albion, in Noble County, Indiana. The terrain is considered gently rolling farmland and is characteristic of northeast Indiana. The nominated property consists of a 0.31 tract that includes the church and adjacent frame building and an adjoining roughly 3.38 acre tract that includes the Sweet Cemetery (see property map and Section 10). There are three contributing resources: a single-story, brick church building, c.1875, representative of Gothic Revival architectural style and the Sweet Cemetery, c.1838, located directly south of the church in the southeast quadrant of the intersection of County Road 415 North and County Road 300 East. The Sweet Church site also has one support building: a single-story, two room, wood-frame out-building c.1940, adjacent to the church building. The frame building appears to have been used for storage of firewood and church furnishings. Both buildings face south onto County Road 415 North and are situated parallel with the centerline of the road.

Exterior

The Sweet Church building is the most significant building on the site. Having been constructed c.1875, it is representative of the Gothic Revival architectural style of the mid 19th century. From the foundation up, the building demonstrates the superb craftsmanship of builders from a different time period. The foundation is comprised of split-granite stones laid in a running bond over a smooth field stone footer. On top of this foundation, the building and bell tower are constructed from standard size red brick masonry units. The walls are constructed using a double Wythe bond and laid in Flemish Garden Wall bond pattern. Header course brick arches were constructed over each of the windows and above the openings for the louvers on the bell tower, eliminating the need for lintels of any kind at these openings. Each window has a limestone sill that projects horizontally about one inch from the wall of the building. The transom window above the entrance door has brick accents above it that were laid in a double header course. A limestone sill/threshold was also installed at the bottom of the opening for the front entrance door. A circular opening is located on the south face of the bell tower, centered between the entrance door and the bell tower louvers. It was constructed with bricks laid in a rowlock course about the lower half of its diameter. A limestone hood was installed about the upper half of the opening, projecting slightly beyond the face of the brick and is engraved as follows: "Jefferson Union Church 1875."

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There are eight pointed arch, double-hung windows installed on the church building. Three windows were installed at an even spacing on the east and west sides allowing adequate natural lighting to enter the building. Two windows are located on the south side of the building as well, one on each side of the projecting bell tower. Older pictures of the building indicate that a rose window was originally located in the circular masonry opening above the main entrance on the front of the building. However, it has since been replaced with a flat painted wood panel. The double-leaf entrance door (originally wood, replaced with fiberglass) was also constructed with a pointed arch transom window above it. Two rows of corbelling were installed on the south, east and west sides of the bell tower, providing a transition between the lower and middle and upper portions of the tower. The bell tower was constructed with four large, pointed arch wood louvers, having one on each side. The louver on the north side of the bell tower is slightly shorter than the other three in order to accommodate the roof peak on the church building. Each louver also has a limestone sill. The sills for the east, west and south louvers have corbelling installed below them to provide a transition between the bottom of the sill and the face of the bell tower. The bricks at the corners of the bell tower were laid to form "cantons" or pilaster strips, which extend from the foundation to the eaves of the bell tower roof, where they transition into a pointed corbel arch above each louver.

The north side of the church building is relatively plain except for the brick chimney that is located on the center of the wall. The chimney is setting on a concrete foundation and has a wide brick base. The bricks are then stair-stepped in to form the chimney which is approximately 1 foot square. The chimney extends up the face of the north wall, penetrates the overhanging roof and is terminated with brick corbelling at its top.

The roof of the main church building is a simple gable form constructed with a 1:1 pitch. Originally, the roof was sheathed in wood shingles. The building now has a metal roof with a low standing-seam joint. The bell tower roof system is constructed of two steeply sloped gable roof forms with a 2:1 rise-run intersecting at a 90 degree angle. The original wood shake roof of the bell tower was replaced in 2003 with new wood shakes. In addition to the wood shakes on the bell-tower roof, there are four steep valleys built up with metal saddles which taper out to cover the four brick masonry corners of the bell tower. These were re-painted at the same time the roof on the bell tower was restored.

The roof edges overhang the walls of the building at the eave and gable ends and are detailed in painted wood. There are two projections through the gabled

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portion of the roof system: the bell tower located on the south end of the building and a brick chimney located on the center of the north wall.

There is one access point to the interior of the building: a large concrete stoop constructed on the south side of the bell tower. The original stoop was cast in place concrete steps and landing with large diameter jointed pipe handrails. This was replaced with a new stoop also having cast in place steps and landing. However, brick insets were installed on each side of the stoop. A limestone block referring to the Sweet Church Community Org. and the year 2002 (with a time capsule) was installed in the west side of the stoop. Welded pipe handrails were also installed on each side of the stoop. A curved sidewalk extends from the south end of the stoop around to a small limestone parking lot located on the west side of the building.

The building grounds have been graded and seeded to lawn (with the exception of the gravel parking lot located north of the building) and trees donated by Sweet Church Community Org. members and friends have been planted north and east of the building. The front of the Church building has been attractively landscaped with a flower bed located on the west side of the entrance to the building. On the east side of the entrance, the original well for the property was restored to its original condition and a park bench and a patio constructed from red brick pavers has been built in this area.

Interior

The Church building is accessed through the south entrance that opens into a small vestibule area in the bell tower. This small room has an oak hardwood floor and the plaster walls have been painted an "off-white" color that matches the décor of the rest of the building interior. The pull-rope for the large bronze bell (located in the top of the bell tower) is also located in this room. The bell itself has been cleaned and restored to its original condition and visitors to the church building are encouraged to ring it as often as they please.

One enters the nave portion of the building from the vestibule through two solid-core, pointed-arch, three-panel doors that are made from fir. The height of the opening for these doors is eleven feet and three inches which is approximately 1'-4" lower than the height of the opening for the main entrance door when the transom window is included.

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The sanctuary has a "vaulted" ceiling that follows the rake of the roofline. There is a small attic located in the area between the ceiling and the underside of the roof. However, it is not easily accessible, nor is it able to be used for any kind of storage. A small hatch is located in the ceiling near the southerly end of the nave that allows one to access this area. Another use for this opening was discovered while installing wiring and insulation in the attic area of the building. One of the older members (now deceased) of the Sweet Church Community Org. had claimed that the existing bell tower was added at a later date. However, an exact date could not be pin-pointed other than some time during the early 1900's. Prior to that, it is believed that the bell was located in a structure (bell cote) on the roof of the main building. This is further supported by the fact that the roof rafters above the attic hatch were reinforced at the time the building was constructed to support a heavier roof load in this location. In addition, there is another rectangular opening (now covered by the metal roof) in the roof system that corresponds to the attic hatch. The attic access panel also has a hole cut into it that was most likely for the bell rope. Another piece of evidence in support of a later construction date for the bell tower is the presence of a large circular outline in the wall above the interior doors that is of similar size as the round opening in the south wall of the bell tower. Its presence suggests that the limestone tablet and the rose window were moved from the south wall of the church building to the opening in the bell tower. When this evidence is coupled with the fact that the interior doors had a significant amount of weathering, the original floor of the bell tower was constructed of pine planks as opposed to ash and that a large wooden beam fabricated from two-inch thick wood planks was bolted to the upper south wall of the main building to support the north wall of the bell tower, it is quite feasible that the bell tower was constructed at a later date than the rest of the building.

Other features found in the attic seem to indicate that the existing chimney was not the original chimney constructed for the building. This evidenced by the presence of a rectangular penetration (now covered over by the roof metal) through the roof on the east and west sides of the building corresponding to a large cavity which extends down the inside of the wall at each of these locations. There are also circular patterns on the east and west walls that appear to be where the holes for the original stove pipes were plastered shut and whose location corresponds with imprints in the wood floor on each side of the nave from stoves that were present when the floor was refinished. This vent

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system for the wood heating stoves is typical of the work of builder George Harvey. Pictures of the second Noble County Courthouse and the original Albion Wesleyan Church, also built by Harvey, show that he used this type of chimney on each of these buildings as well.

As part of the restoration project, blown-in cellulose insulation was installed above the ceiling to aid with heating the building. In addition, the original plaster ceiling had holes in it and was coming loose from the lath creating a safety issue. To remedy this situation, dry-wall was installed over the original ceiling and painted to match the décor of the building interior.

Holes in the original plaster walls were repaired and the walls have also been painted off-white to match the interior décor. Another characteristic of the interior walls of the nave is the oak wainscoting that was installed when the building was originally constructed. This feature is constructed of vertical oak boards and has a simple oak cap. The wainscot is thirty-two inches tall throughout the building except for a short segment along the north wall of the sanctuary where the altar is located. In this area, the wainscot is thirty-eight inches tall and the wainscot boards on the east and west sides of the altar have been curved to provide a transition. The altar wainscot also has the same style of simple oak cap used in the rest of the building. When the wainscot was originally installed, the oak boards alternated between dark stained and lighter stained sections. At the time the building was acquired by its current owner, the finish on the wainscoting had become dark through age and neglect. Since that time it has been painstakingly restored to its original condition (minus the alternating dark and light stained sections) thus creating an attractive transition between the walls and the ash hardwood floor.

Other interior woodwork that has been restored is the window sills and casings. Each of the double hung pointed arch windows and the entrance doors is trimmed out with fir molding. The trim itself is composed of a flat board in the area next to the door or window casing with "ogee" molding attached to the outside of the board. Both the board and molding have been formed to match the pointed-arch shape typical to the doors and windows. When the interior restoration project was begun, this woodwork was also stained a dark color and the varnish had yellowed from age. Since that time, the old finish has been stripped, it has been stained to the same color as the wainscot and a new finish was applied.

The floor of the nave is constructed of solid five-quarter ash tongue and groove boards that run from north to south. The floor system is in good condition, and was sanded and refinished after the completion of the ceiling restoration project. It is interesting to note that there are two spots on the floor where

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separate wood burning stoves were located but they were removed from the church by one of its earlier occupants. These locations were preserved during the floor refinishing project.

The structural system for the floor consists of 2" x 12" hardwood floor joists at 16 inches on center. The joists are oriented from east to west and there is an interior support wall (constructed from smooth field stones) located at mid-span (in the crawlspace) running from north to south the entire length of the building.

There is an 8-1/2 inch high raised platform (altar) located at the north end of the nave. At the time the Sweet Church Community Org. took possession of the building, it extended across the entire width of the room. Approximately one-third of its width was removed on each side of the nave to facilitate refinishing of the floor in areas to be used as access points for a future addition proposed for the north end of the building. Approximately one third of the platform has been left intact and refinished in the same manner as the floor of the sanctuary. However, it was discovered while removing the east and west portions of the platform that the current remaining portion is that which was originally constructed for the church. This was evidenced by the fact that the flooring material that was removed was made from pine and had a 3/4-inch thickness as opposed to the ash 5/4-inch material used as the original flooring material. In addition, the framing materials for the removed portions of the altar were constructed from pine lumber instead of hardwood. It was also discovered that the ash flooring used throughout the building remained intact underneath the removed portion of the altar, however no flooring was ever installed underneath the original platform. Other evidence found to indicate that the current altar is original was the fact that its width corresponds to the width of the taller section of wainscot. In addition, the woodwork on the altar extensions were built around the angled front corners of the older part of the platform. An estimated date of construction for the altar addition is most likely the early 1900's, since the pine flooring material was similar to that originally used for the vestibule in the bell tower. A closet sized room that houses a furnace in order to make the building useable during the winter season has been constructed on the platform and against the north wall of the nave. The furnace and the structure housing it are temporary and will be relocated to the future building addition once it is constructed.

In its original form, the church building had gas lighting. Over the years however, the gas light fixtures were removed from the building by the different organizations that occupied it. At some point in time, an electric service was installed in the building as well. However, those fixtures were also removed and the existing wiring was deemed unsafe to use. Consequently, modern wiring has been installed in the building and electricity is supplied to the building using

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a temporary electrical service. A permanent installation will be housed in the future building addition. Until that time, the temporary service is adequate to supply power to the lights and furnace.

Upon completion of the interior restoration project, interior lighting was installed. The fixtures were selected based on two criteria: similarity in color and shape to gas lighting fixtures that may have been used in buildings of the same time period and ease of maintenance.

A final topic pertaining to the interior of the building is with regard to the church furnishings, i.e. pews, pulpit, etc. When the Sweet Church Community Org. took possession of the building, all of the pews except for one had been removed by former occupants of the building. The remaining pew is currently being stored off-site.

According to one of the members of the Sweet Church Community Org., the original pulpit was donated several years ago to a missionary from the area who was serving in New Zealand at the time. There has been some discussion by the Sweet Church Community Org. about obtaining church furniture from the time period of the church, but no definite plans have been made with regard to this.

Wood Frame Outbuilding

The wood frame outbuilding is located east of the church. It was used for storage of firewood and various furnishings. Aerial photographs taken in 1933 do not show the building. Therefore, a conservative estimate for the date of construction would be approximately c.1940. It is a two room structure resting on a concrete wall foundation with a concrete floor. It has also been restored. This building is considered to be contributing.

Sweet Cemetery

As mentioned earlier in this document, the Sweet Cemetery, originally platted as Skinner Burial Ground Cemetery c.1838, is located on seven parcels whose total combined area is 5.2 acres and is directly across from the Sweet Church property on the south side of County Road 415 North. Six parcels of land have been added to the original cemetery tract which had its first interment in 1838. The east two tracts were added in 1976, after the cutoff date for the period of significance and consequently were not included in the property description for the cemetery in the verbal boundary description section of this document.

Prior to 1838, no cemetery existed in Jefferson Township. Many of the early settlers of Jefferson Township (including George Harvey, the builder of Sweet Church) are buried in the older portion of the cemetery, which is located on the west five tracts.

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The cemetery's tracts have a narrow orientation to 415 N (East Lisbon Road) and about 600 feet of frontage along County Road 300 E. In fact, due to the early nature of the cemetery, County Road 300 E jogs around the west edge of its earliest section as it continues south. A "U" shaped gravel lane divides the cemetery; this internal drive has long runs parallel to 300 E and a short turn around, the base of the "U", at the south end of the cemetery. At the base of the "U" a short gravel drive accesses the cemetery from the south as well, at the point where 300 E swings over to the east to resume its alignment. Markers are aligned in rows, plantings are minimal.

Older markers (pre-20th century) are in the westernmost tract along 300 E. Marker types range from simple tablets to obelisk monuments. Even though burials as early as 1838 are recorded for the cemetery, the oldest remaining legible markers date from the 1850s. Most of these are simple white marble tablets with engraved information. Some have simple symbolism, such as carvings of a weeping willow tree, a hand pointing to heaven, or a book of life or Bible, above the inscriptions. Some families chose more ostentatious monuments. In particular, several markers in this area are white marble obelisks, ranging in size from several feet tall to over six feet tall with plinths.

The markers in the tracts to the east (closer to the internal lanes) are from the early twentieth century. Expansion of rail networks and improvements in quarrying technology meant that more durable granite was available; many families in the area chose from variety of available colors and designs. The post with urn/finial top is well represented, for example.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Jefferson Union Church (hereinafter referred to as the "Sweet Church") meets National Register Criterion C in the theme of Architecture, and Criterion A in the theme of settlement. Rated as "Outstanding" in the Noble County Interim Report, Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory (hereafter referred to as Interim Report) and qualifying it to be considered for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places, this c.1875 church building is a well preserved representation of Gothic Revival style that was popular in ecclesiastical architecture from the 1840's into the twentieth century. The cemetery associated with Jefferson Union Church is the oldest burial ground in the township. It appears to be the only historic place left in the township that dates to the pre-railroad era of Noble County. Because of the architectural and historical merits of the property, it meets both Criteria Considerations A and D. The period of significance (c.1838-1959) extends to include the earliest recorded internment in the cemetery (c.1838) and extends to the fifty year cut off, since the markers of the cemetery within that period add to the sense of place and heritage of the site. The specific significance of the church (c.1875) and association of the cemetery with the area's settlement period (c.1838-c.1860).

The architecture of Jefferson Union Church stands apart from the Rehoboth Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Glosser house. The former is the only church (other than Sweet Church) and the latter is the only Gothic Revival building (other than Sweet Church) Jefferson Township to be listed in the Interim Report (both carry a rating of "Notable"). A comparison of the Sweet Church with each of these buildings will be made in the following two sections.

Rehoboth Evangelical Lutheran Church (c.1907) (site 40031, Noble County Interim Report)

Rehoboth Evangelical Lutheran Church (hereafter referred to as "Rehoboth Church") has several similarities to the Sweet Church. However, both churches in many respects are vastly different. Much of the difference can be attributed to a couple of possible explanations. First, is the architectural style. Sweet Church was built using the Gothic Revival style of architecture, where the builders of Rehoboth Church used a later version of the same basic gable front with centered tower format. Therefore, pointed arches above the openings, the rose window, steep rooflines, pointed gables on the bell tower, masonry that extends to the top of the bell tower, an enclosed belfry, and ornate brickwork (corbelling and cantons) that are present on the Sweet Church are non-existent on the Rehoboth Church. Instead, the Rehoboth Church has segmental arched windows, the belfry has a flat roof and the bell is cradled in an open wood

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frame. The brickwork is relatively plain with little ornamentation. One ornamental feature unique to the Rehoboth Church and worth mentioning are the two small diamond-shaped windows located on each side of the bell tower. A second explanation for a few of the differences between these two buildings is related to the date of construction. Sweet Church was constructed in 1875; Rehoboth Church was constructed in 1907 according to the Noble County Interim Report. The differences observed here manifest themselves as subtle variations in construction technique and features for each building. For instance, both buildings are constructed from the same type of soft red brick commonly used in brick buildings throughout the county. However, the difference lies in the way the bricks were laid. Sweet Church was constructed with the bricks laid in a running bond using a Flemish bond pattern. This method created a wall cavity between the exterior brick and the interior brick walls and tied the two together structurally using stretcher bricks. Rehoboth Church was constructed using a simple running bond minus the Flemish pattern. Another feature observed to be different is the rock faced concrete block foundation for the Rehoboth Church. The foundation for Sweet Church has split-stone solid masonry.

Although there are differences in architecture and construction between each building, they do have certain similarities to one another. For instance, both churches are located in a rural setting on a prominent knoll at the corner of a county road intersection, making each building somewhat of a landmark for the area. Each church has a cemetery adjacent to it, although Rehoboth Cemetery is located on the same tract of land as the building and Sweet Cemetery is separated from the church by County Road 415 North.

Similarities pertaining to the buildings are as follows: each building is a one-story brick building, similar in size, having the same roof pitch (1:1), with a one-room nave and is entered through a vestibule in the bottom story of the bell tower. The bell towers for each building are located on one end with the chimney located on the opposing end. However, it should be noted here that the Sweet Church bell tower is free-standing and the bell-tower for Rehoboth Church is inset into the front of the building by about half of its depth making it part of the main building and is slightly shorter than the one on Sweet Church. In addition, the chimney for Rehoboth Church is less ornate than the Sweet Church chimney due to its architectural style.

Glosser House (c.1855) (site 40003, Noble County Interim Report)

The Glosser House is located approximately six hundred feet south of County Road 415 North, and about 2.5 miles east of the Sweet Church. The home is in private ownership and the landowner could not be contacted for access to the property in

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order to observe its architecture up close. However, a picture of this building is shown on page xxi of the Noble County Interim Report as an example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture. Many of the features pointed out in this picture still appear to be intact on the home as observed from 415 North. This building demonstrates the distinction between ecclesiastical and residential Gothic Revival styles. Essentially the only thing that Sweet Church and Glosser House have in common is a steep roof pitch. From there, it is easy to detect the differences: residential use as opposed to ecclesiastical use; brick construction as opposed to wood frame construction with board and batten siding; "eared drip moldings" about the windows as opposed to pointed-arch windows; and an ornate "bargeboard" installed along the gable as opposed to ogee raking molding. It is possible, as seen with Rehoboth Church that the variation in construction materials could be due to the construction date of the Glosser House which predates Sweet Church by twenty years.

History of Jefferson Union Church and its historical context.

The above comparisons with the Rehoboth Church and the Glosser House both demonstrate and confirm that the Sweet Church is a fine and well-preserved example of Gothic Revival architecture. It embodies the religious and social life of Noble County during the mid to late 19th Century. The early settlers in Jefferson Township of Noble County worked hard throughout the week but reserved the first day of the week to worship their God, to fellowship with their neighbors and as a day of rest. Simple yet elegant, the Sweet Church provided just the location for them to fulfill these needs. This tradition has continued into the present day with the restoration of the Sweet Church building. It has once again become a place for social events in Jefferson Township. Many of these events are attended by descendents of those early settlers who once worshipped there.

Its builder was a local resident by the name of George Harvey, a man of Scottish ancestry, who designed and built many local public buildings including the old brick courthouse of 1860, the county infirmary, and the county jail as well as the original Wesleyan Church in Albion, under contract work.

Although the church is known as Sweet Church because of the fact that James and Sarah Sweet conveyed the land to build the church for the sum of \$1.00, the church was registered with the Recorder's Office in Albion, Indiana as "Jefferson Union Church." The church was established as an "Association" to which any person may become a member if over the age of "twenty-one years and a resident of Noble County" as listed in Miscellaneous Record Book 2, Page 26 at the Recorder's Office in Albion, Indiana. Thereby, Jefferson Union Church was

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established as what is now considered a non-denominational church.

Very little is known about how the church was used from its founding date to the 1940's. It should be noted that a list of founding members was included on the document recorded in Miscellaneous Record 2, page 26. However, when Alvord's history was published in 1902, those whose name appeared on the membership list and had a biographical sketch in Alvord's history did not have Jefferson Union Church listed as their place of worship. In most cases, either no church or another church in the county was listed. So one can only speculate Alvord may not have known for sure what church some of the people he included in his history did attend. This is further supported by the fact that Alvord provides more detailed information about other churches in Jefferson Township and Noble County but only makes a brief mention (less than a paragraph) of the Jefferson Union Church. That would seem to suggest that Alvord may not have been very familiar with the church. It is clear that Sweet Church was still functioning during the 1920's and 30's based on oral testimony from Byron Graves (now deceased), one of the founding members of the Sweet Church Community Org. Mr. Graves had mentioned that an Ice Cream Social was held to help generate funds toward the construction of the bell tower. He also talked about applying linseed oil to the floor as part of maintaining the building. Unfortunately, Mr. Graves died in 2004, prior to any work on this application and consequently, much of what he knew about the history of the church earlier than 1940 is now derived from the recollection of those who were present when he shared what he knew about it.

By the 1940's services were conducted by lay ministers such as Ford Butler, who with his family, lived about six-tenths of a mile directly north of the Jefferson Union Church.

During the 1950's services were discontinued and a ladies' club known as the Union Ladies Aid met there for some years. The church was used as a community center in which 4-H meetings were held and various social events such as Halloween costume parties and ice cream socials were enjoyed by the community.

After the Ladies' Aid disbanded, the Skinner Lake Homeowners' Association held meetings in the building for a few years. Ownership was clouded because of the fact that the original documents set Jefferson Union as an association. Because of the passing of the members of the association, ownership was not definitive. Therefore, the Skinner Lake Homeowners abandoned the project to use the building as a community center.

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In the late 1990's Douglas Bonar managed to purchase the property through the Noble County tax sale and was able to ensure his ownership through a quiet title action (court order). By that time, the building had fallen into severe disrepair and all the Gothic arch windows that had been broken were boarded over with plywood, the church bell had been removed and the bell tower was open, crumbling and home to a score of raccoons. The property was overgrown with brush, the access steps were failing, the building had been broken into resulting in damage to the entrance doors, and it was certain that the old church would not survive another generation. However, it was Mr. Bonar's intention to restore the building and to convert it into a residence.

In 2002, the building was purchased by the newly formed Sweet Church Community Organization. Since then the brush has been removed, the access steps replaced, the windows and the original bell found and restored as well as the bell tower. There has been an enormous amount of restoration to the inside of the building. In 2005 the organization purchased an additional (2) acres of adjacent ground for additional parking, to construct a future building or building expansion that will include all of the amenities to make the existing building more useful for community gatherings (i.e. kitchen, restrooms, and the modifications necessary to enhance handicap accessibility) and a storm water management area.

The mission of the Sweet Church Community Organization is to assure that the Jefferson Union Church (Sweet Church) remains a community center; a legacy, for future generations. Each year since the establishment of the Sweet Church Community Organization a "Homecoming" event has been held every October. A Sweet Church Christmas is observed each December. 4-H meetings are once again held there and the Board of Directors strives to incorporate more year round social events to involve all of the community of Jefferson Township and Noble County.

Sweet Cemetery (c.1838)

Sweet Cemetery (c.1838) meets National Register Criterion A in the area of exploration and settlement. This date places it quite close to the beginning of the settlement of Noble County and is most likely very close to when the first settlers began appearing in Jefferson Township. This is based on the fact that Alvord's History places most of the early settlement in the western side of the County. However, by 1831, there had been a few land transfers in Allen Township which adjoins Jefferson Township on the east. By 1838 however, there were settlers (homesteaders) and landowners, since a land transfer was necessary to create the cemetery. The need for a cemetery was recognized when a child of

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Section number 8, 9 Page 14

Alfred Skinner passed away, and it was discovered that no land in the township had been set aside for that purpose. Therefore, Skinner's brother James provided land for that purpose at the location of the current Sweet Cemetery. According to a work published as Counties of LaGrange and Noble, Indiana 1882 Historical and Biographical, this was the first Euro-American death to occur in Jefferson Township and shortly after this first interment, the cemetery was "dedicated exclusively to the burial of the dead." The author of this work goes on to write on page 193: "It is one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the county. It is filled with beautiful marble slabs and monuments, two or three which cost about \$500 each. Some of these point back to the earliest scenes of the township, and pour into the ears of the writer the sad and solemn story of the final rest of the old pioneers."

The end of first time land sales, establishment of institutions, and construction of permanent dwellings are harbingers of the end of settlement. The coming of railroads ended isolation can be said to have truly ended the settlement era. In Noble County, Kendallville had a rail line by 1858, but the county seat, Albion, did not have a rail line until the mid-1870s. Cemeteries were among the first places to meet the spiritual and cultural needs of settlers, and Sweet Cemetery is without question the oldest Euro-American burial ground in the township. Few other settlement era places exist in Jefferson Township. Most of the township's farmers rebuilt their houses and farms as circumstances allowed, the oldest surviving house, a c.1855 frame Greek Revival house, is on the far east edge of the township (Interim Report site 40021).

Section 9 - Bibliography

Alvord, Samuel E, Alvord's History of Noble County, Indiana. Logansport: B.F. Bowen, 1902. reprinted 2003 by the Noble County Historical Society.

Counties of LaGrange and Noble, Indiana, 1882 Historical & Biographical. Chicago: F.A. Battery & Co., 1882.

Hague, David. President, Sweet Church Community Organization. Email conversations regarding later construction date for bell tower and east and west extension of church altar.

Hass, Alan. Oral History witnessed firsthand.

Noble County Interim Report: Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Historic landmarks Foundation of Indiana, March, 1986

Recorder's Office, Noble County, Indiana. Deed Record Book 37, Page 4.

Recorder's Office, Noble County, Indiana. Document Number 020800777.

Recorder's Office, Noble County, Indiana. Miscellaneous Record Book 2, Page 26.

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Section number 10 Page 15

Verbal Boundary Description

Legal Description - Jefferson Union Church Tract

A tract of land located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 10, Township 34 North, Range 10 East, in Noble County, the State of Indiana and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Southwest Quarter; thence North, along the west line of said Southwest Quarter, for 661.62 feet to the intersection of the west line of said Southwest Quarter with the centerline of County Road 415 North, also being the Point of Beginning; thence continuing North, along said west line, for 126.72 feet; thence South 87 degrees 24 minutes 29 seconds East, parallel with the centerline of County Road 415 North, for 105.60 feet; thence South, parallel with the west line of said Southwest Quarter, for 61.72 feet; thence East, for 8.00 feet; thence South, parallel with the west line of said Southwest Quarter, for 25.00 feet; thence West, for 8.00 feet; thence South, parallel with the west line of said Southwest Quarter, for 40.00 feet to the centerline of County Road 415 North; thence North 87 degrees 24 minutes 29 seconds West, along the centerline of said County Road, for 105.60 feet to the Point of Beginning. Said tract contains 0.31 Acres, more or less and is subject to all public road rights-of-way, easements and restrictions of record.

The boundary for the Sweet Church property is further defined by the boundary map provided at the end of this document.

Legal Description - Older portion of Sweet Cemetery

A tract of land located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 10 and the Southeast Quarter of Section 9, Township 34 North, Range 10 East, in Noble County, the State of Indiana and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 9, also being the southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 10: thence North 88 degrees 20 minutes 40 seconds West, for 104.33 feet; thence North 00 degrees 20 minutes 54 seconds East, for 638.26 feet; thence South 87 degrees 42 minutes 53 seconds East, for 222.30 feet thence South 00 degrees 18 minutes 16 seconds west, for 634.72 feet; thence North 88 degrees 52 minutes

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45 seconds West, for 118.37 feet to the Point of Beginning. Said tract contains 3.38 Acres, more or less and is subject to all public road rights-of-way, easements and restrictions of record.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Sweet Church property includes the Church building and the wood frame out-building east of the church building. In completing a boundary survey of the Church property, it was discovered that the out-building encroaches onto the two acre parcel owned by Sweet Church Community Org. Therefore, the description for the original church property was amended so that the tract of land being nominated will have both buildings located upon it.

At the present time, Sweet Cemetery covers a much larger area than what the above legal description encompasses. However, there are two sections that are newer and that are still being used for interments. Therefore, the above-described boundary for the Sweet Cemetery property includes only that portion of the cemetery that has been in existence from the first interment in 1838 to the portion being used in 1959 (fifty years prior to current year as required by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the National Park Service). The more recent tracts were recorded in the mid-1970s, clearly outside of the historical period.

It should also be noted that the Sweet Cemetery is under the control of the Jefferson Township Trustee/Jefferson Township Advisory Board who provides maintenance and supervision over the entire cemetery property. Approval/permission was obtained from this government entity prior to including the cemetery as a resource on this application. Contact information for the Jefferson Township Trustee has been included in the following section.

Additional Information

Contact information for the Jefferson Township Trustee/Jefferson Township Advisory Board (trustee serves as contact person for the Advisory Board):

Jefferson Township Trustee (Precinct 11)

Dorothy Bauman
3388 E 600 N
Kendallville, IN 46755
(260) 347-2405

JEFFERSON UNION CHURCH (SWEET CHURCH)
Property Name

NOBLE COUNTY, INDIANA
County and State

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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Section number Additional Documentation Page Photo Log #1

Photo Log

The following information applies to all of the photographs listed in this log and contained on the CD:

Name of Property: Jefferson Union Church, a/k/a "Sweet Church"

County and State: Noble County, Indiana

Name of Photographer: Mark Ober

Date of Photographs: February 11, 2007

Location of Photographs: CD enclosed in application packet

The following photographs of the Jefferson Union Church are included on the CD. They are listed by the file name of the photograph (which also includes the number based on the order which they were taken) followed by a brief description of the direction of view.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch1: Photo taken from the vestibule showing the north end of the nave.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch2: Photo taken from the northwest corner of the nave, showing south end of nave with doors to vestibule open.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch3: Photo taken from the northwest corner of the nave, showing south end of nave with doors to vestibule closed.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch4: Photo taken from the southwest corner of the nave.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch5: Photo taken from the southeast corner of the nave.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch6: Photo taken from center of nave showing a close-up view of remaining portion of platform and temporary furnace closet.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch7: Photo that attempts to show millwork around the windows (typical view).

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch8: Photo taken at south end of nave, showing the access hatch to the attic of the building.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch9: Photo taken from middle of nave showing closer view of pointed arch doors between the nave and vestibule.

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Section number Additional Documentation Page Photo Log #2

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch10: Photo taken from middle of nave showing the inside of the vestibule.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch11: Close-up view of wainscot.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch12: View of oak hardwood floor and also shows location of one of the wood burning heaters that were originally used to heat the building.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch13: Photo at south side of building, showing inside of vestibule.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch14: Photo taken from southwest of the building, showing south and west elevations of building.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch15: Photo taken from southwest of the building, showing south and west elevations of building.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch16: Photo taken from southwest of the church building, showing non-contributing outbuilding.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch17: Photo taken from south of the building, showing south elevation.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch18: Photo taken from south of the building, showing south elevation.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch19: Photo taken from south of the building, showing south elevation.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch20: Photo taken from the northwest showing north and west elevations.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch21: Photo taken from the northeast showing north and east elevations.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch22: Photo taken from the northeast showing north and east elevations.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch23: Close-up photo taken from the northeast showing north and east sides of bell tower.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch24: Photo taken from the northeast showing north and east elevations.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch25: Close-up photo taken from the northeast showing north and east sides of bell tower.

JEFFERSON UNION CHURCH (SWEET CHURCH)
Property Name

NOBLE COUNTY, INDIANA
County and State

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

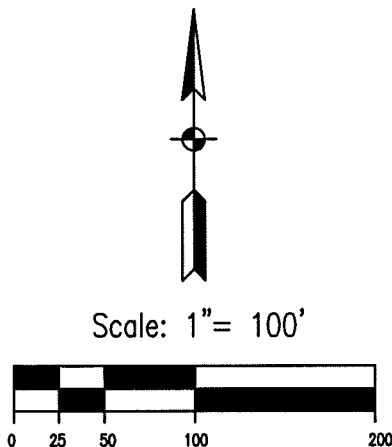
Section number Additional Documentation Page Photo Log #3

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch26: Close-up photo taken from the east showing granite foundation.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch27: Close-up photo taken from the south showing landscaped area at east side of entrance.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch28: Close-up photo taken from the west showing landscaped area at west side of entrance and side view of porch/landing.

IN_NobleCounty_JeffersonUnionChurch29: Close-up photo taken from the south showing curved sidewalk at west side of building.



NOTE: BASIS OF BEARING FOR THE CEMETERY NOMINATION AREA WAS TAKEN FROM THE DEED DESCRIPTION FOR SAID TRACT. THE BASIS OF BEARING FOR THE CHURCH NOMINATION AREA WAS TAKEN FROM AN ACTUAL SURVEY OF THE CHURCH TRACT. BOTH PARCELS ARE CONTIGUOUS ALONG THEIR COMMON PROPERTY LINE AT THE CENTERLINE OF C.R. 415N.

DIANA MAY KREGER
PER: DOC. #000300658

HARRISON MARKER FOUND (-0.2')
NW COR., SW 1/4, SEC 10.
T 34 N, R 10 E

SWEET CHURCH COMM. ORG., INC.

S 87°24'29"E 242.00'
S 87°24'29"E 105.60' (R&M)
CHURCH NOMINATION AREA (N/O 415N)

CEMETERY NOMINATION AREA (S/O 415N)

0.31 ± Ac.

ONE STORY BRICK BUILDING

WOOD FRAME BUILDING

DOC#030100358

126.72' (R&M)

105.60' (R&M)

222.30'

CO. RD. 415 N

DEED DATED JULY 22, 1914

661.62' (M)

660' (R)

634.72'

S 00°18'16"W

118.37'

104.33'

N 88°20'40"W

104.33'

N 88°52'45"W

2645.13' (M)

2641.65' (R)

(40ch 2-1/2 links)

JEFFERSON CIVIL TOWNSHIP

PER: DR BOOK 185, PG. 362

JEFFERSON CIVIL TOWNSHIP

PER: DR BOOK 185, PG. 363

HARRISON MARKER FOUND
SE COR., SW 1/4, SEC 10.
T 34 N, R 10 E

ROUND-HEAD BOLT FOUND
SW COR., SW 1/4, SEC 10.
T 34 N, R 10 E

Prepared For:
SWEET CHURCH COMMUNITY ORG., INC.

Prepared By: Mark A. Ober, PLS
1886E 500N Albion, IN 46701

Date: 12/10/2009

Scale: 1" = 100'

Sheet: CONTINUATION SHEET 10

Drawing Number: SKETCH PLAN



Jefferson Union Church, Noble Co., IN photo 15



Jefferson Union Church, Noble Co., IN photo 19



Jefferson Union Church, Noble Co., IN photo 17



Jefferson Union Church, Noble County, IN photo 20



Jefferson Union Church, Noble Co., IN photo 2



Jefferson Union Church, Noble Co., IN photo 4